



Livestock mortality rates and design weights

Poultry¹				
	Average Weight ³ (pounds)	Loss Rate (%)	Flock Life	Design Weight ⁴ (pounds)
Broiler (mature)	4 - 8	4.5 - 5	42 - 70 days	Up to 8
Layer	4.5	14	440 days	4.5
Broiler, breeding hen	4 - 8	10 - 12	440 days	8
Turkey, hen (meat)	15 - 25	6 - 8	95 - 120 days	25
Turkey, tom (meat)	25 - 42	12	112 - 140 days	35
Turkey, replace. breeder	15 (birth - 30)	5 - 6	210 days	20
Turkey, breeding hen	28 - 30	5 - 6	180 days	30
Turkey, breeding tom	70 - 80	30	180 days	75

Swine²					
Growth Stage	Average Weight ³ (pounds)	Loss Rate (%)			Design Weight ⁴ (pounds)
		Excellent	Good	Poor	
Birth to Weaning	6	<10	10 - 12	>12	10
Nursery	24	<2	2 - 4	>4	35
Growing - Finishing	140	<2	2 - 4	>4	210
Breeding Herd ⁵	350	<2	2 - 5	>5	350

Cattle / Horses⁶					
Growth Stage	Average Weight ³ (pounds)	Loss Rate (%)			Design Weight ⁴ (pounds)
		Excellent	Good	Poor	
Birth	70 - 130	<8	8 - 10	>10	130
Weanling	600	<2	2 - 3	>3	600
Yearling	900	<1	1	>1	900
Mature ⁵	1400	<0.5	0.5 - 1	>1	1400

Sheep / Goats⁶					
Growth Stage	Average Weight ³ (pounds)	Loss Rate (%)			Design Weight ⁴ (pounds)
		Excellent	Good	Poor	
Birth	8	<8	8 - 10	>10	10
Lambs	50-80	<4	4 - 6	>6	80
Mature ⁵	170	<2	3 - 5	>8	170

¹Adapted from the Ohio poultry Association; ²Adapted from Pork Industry Handbook - 100

³Average weight. used to calculate pounds of annual mortality;

⁴Design weight used to calculate composting cycle periods

⁵For mature animals the % loss is an annual rate for the average number of head on the farm

⁶The design weight and mortality rates for cattle, horses, sheep and goats need to be verified with the producer, the table figures are estimates from OSU livestock specialists. The mortality rate for these species will not likely be constant throughout the year. Verify the seasonal mortality rates with the producer.